

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 58, and 67 as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A processing method of ordering a new consumable to be used by a printer and returning a used consumable, used by the printer, being performed by an information processing system that communicates with a terminal via the Internet, said method comprising the steps of:

the information processing system receiving, from the terminal, participating information, indicating whether or not a user ~~wishes to participate~~ participates in a return service ~~for returning a used consumable~~ corresponding to a particular type of consumable, wherein the return service is provided by the system ~~to allow~~ and is a service by which the user ~~to return~~ returns the used consumable;

the information processing system setting a participating flag corresponding to the user, which is managed by the information processing system, in a memory unit in accordance with the received participating information, wherein the information processing system manages a plurality of participating flags corresponding to different types of consumables ordered by the user;

the information processing system receiving, from the terminal, a request for ordering a new consumable;

in response to receiving the request, the information processing system transmitting first information containing data fields for representing data used in ordering the new consumable, wherein the data fields are displayed ~~for display~~ on a display screen of the terminal, whereby the user inputs data into the data fields ~~to order~~ and orders the new

consumable and specifies in the data fields of the first information that the user desires  
return the used consumable; and

the terminal transmitting the data input in the data fields for ordering the  
new consumable and specifying the user's desire to return the used consumable to the  
information processing system, and

in response to receiving the input data for ordering the new consumable and  
specifying the user's desire to return the used consumable from the terminal request, the  
information processing system transmitting second information, wherein the second  
information is displayed for display on the display screen of the terminal,

wherein the second information comprising comprises one of a message (a)  
prompting the user to participate in the return service in a case where at least one  
participating flag corresponding to the user indicates that the user does not already  
participate in the return service; and a message (b) indicating a history regarding the return  
of the used consumable by the user and indicating an incentive point for a discount toward  
the which provides a discount applied to order for the new consumable, the amount of the  
incentive point corresponding to the history,

wherein the second information comprises message (a) in a case where at  
least one participating flag corresponding to the user indicates that the user does not already  
participate in the return service,

wherein the second information comprises message (b) in a case where a  
participating flag corresponding to the user indicates that the user already participates in the  
return service, and

wherein, in response to receiving the second information transmitted in the second information transmitting step, the terminal either prompts the user to participate in the return service or indicates the history and the incentive point.

2. to 57. (Cancelled)

58. (Currently Amended) A processing method for returning a used consumable, used by a printer, being performed by an information processing system that communicates with a terminal via the Internet, said method comprising the steps of:

the information processing system receiving, from the terminal, user log-in information;

the information processing system receiving, from the terminal, participating information, indicating whether or not the user wishes to participate participates in the a return service for returning a the used consumable corresponding to a particular type of consumable, wherein the return service is provided by the system to allow and is a service by which the user ~~to return~~ returns the used consumable;

the information processing system setting a participating flag in correspondence with the user log-in information based on the received participating information, wherein the information processing system manages a plurality of flags corresponding to different types of consumables ordered by the user;

the information processing system reading a history from a database, which corresponds to the user log-in information, regarding the used consumable ~~to be returned~~ by the user;

the information processing system determining an incentive point for which provides a discount toward an order for applied to a new consumable, based on the history read in said reading step;

~~the information processing system receiving, from the terminal, data specifying the user's desire to return the used consumable; and~~

~~in response to receiving the data specifying the user's desire to return the used consumable~~ user log-in information, the information processing system generating a message to be sent to the terminal in accordance with the participating flag corresponding to the user log-in information[[],]; and

the information processing system sending the generated message to the terminal.

wherein the generated message comprises one of a message (a) promptly prompting the user to participate in the return service in a case where at least one participating flag corresponding to the user log-in indicates that the user does not already participate in the return service; and (b) indicating the history regarding the return of the consumable read in the reading step and the incentive point determined in the determining step.

wherein the generated message comprises message (a) in a case where at least one participating flag corresponding to the user log-in information indicates that the user does not already participate in the return service.

wherein the generated message comprises message (b) in a case where the participating flag corresponding to the user log-in information indicates that the user already participates in the return service. and

wherein, in response to receiving the generated message sent in the sending step, the terminal either prompts the user to participate in the return service or indicates the history read in the reading step and the incentive point determined in the determining step.

59. to 66. (Cancelled)

67. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 58, further comprising the steps of:

managing an ordering history of the used consumable and a returning history of the used consumable, which are stored in the database and correspond to the user log-in information; and

keeping track of returning of the used consumable which corresponds to the user log-in information, by using the order history and the returning history.

68. (Cancelled)